

Let's Talk Annapolis

Six months of conversations in Annapolis

Newsletter No. 1 of 2 (April 2006)

Annapolis is talking!

Let's Talk Begins

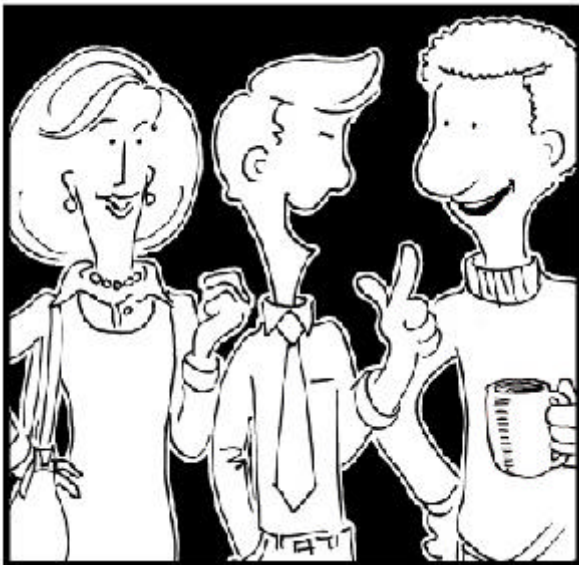
More than 80 people attended the Kick-off Event on February 24. Since then, 13 groups have met for a Let's Talk conversation, and 18 more are scheduled. Each group is talking about four questions about the future of Annapolis:

Question 1. **How do we protect and improve our quality of life?**

Question 2. **How do we build a unified community?**

Question 3. **What should Annapolis become in the next ten years?**

Question 4. **What is one specific priority, and what should we do to address it?**



Conversations are open for you to join:

Wednesday, **April 19**

7:00 - 8:45 p.m.

Annapolis Library meeting room, 1410 West St.

Saturday, **April 29**

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Taylor Avenue Fire Station, 620 Taylor Avenue

Conversations around topic areas:

Environmental Stewardship

Thursday, **April 13**

7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

City Council Chambers, 160 Duke of Gloucester
Hosted by the Environmental Commission

Diversity

Saturday, **April 22**

10:00 a.m. - noon

Gardner Center, 2nd floor, 1908 Forest Drive
Hosted by the Islamic Society of Annapolis

Transportation

Sunday, **April 23**

4:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Café Gurus, 601 Second Street (Eastport)
Hosted by Dave DiQuinzio

Children

Wednesday, **April 26**

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Chesapeake Children's Museum, 25 Silopanna Rd.
Hosted by Debbie Wood

Question 4

The 4th question may be the most important outcome of the Let's Talk conversations. The 4th question challenges us to think beyond simple and quick answers and ask, "What should we do, and *really*, how do we do it?"

A recent conversation group gave this answer to question number four: "We need to take better care of our senior citizens." The group went on to propose ten ways that this could be accomplished, including free public transportation for seniors, controlled rent for seniors, and employment opportunities. Then the conversation ended and everyone went on their way.

We have asked this conversation group to talk more about which of the ten actions the group *agrees* is the *most* important. And to try to answer how it could be accomplished. Who would have to be engaged to make it happen? How would it be administered? What costs are associated? Thinking through these questions is the essence of answering question number 4.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to be part of a group to share my thoughts and ideas about Annapolis? Can I send in my ideas directly? The vision for 'Let's Talk' is to have people connecting with each other to examine life in Annapolis and to propose actions. The process is not purely about gathering information from individuals, as might be done in a survey or opinion poll. Let's Talk conversation groups allow for collective problem solving.

I have invited some people to join me for a 'Let's Talk' conversation. Can someone help my group get started? Yes. A facilitator can attend your conversation to help get the conversation going and stay on track. Contact Let's Talk staff Virginia

Burke or Daria Hardin, by phone 410-263-7961, or email: Virginia: VJBurke@Annapolis.gov, Daria: DDH@Annapolis.gov.

Do I have to be a resident of the City to participate in Let's Talk? No. While the invitation to participate in Let's Talk was extended primarily to people who live or work in Annapolis, anyone with an interest is welcome to participate.

What is the relationship between 'Let's Talk' and the update of the City's Comprehensive Plan? Let's Talk and the Comprehensive Plan are two different, although related processes. The update of the Comprehensive Plan, which is a minimum two year process, does not begin until the Fall of 2006. It will incorporate some ideas and take broad direction from the Let's Talk conversations.

Mayor's Coffees are coming

Starting May 12, for four Fridays, Mayor Ellen Moyer will host Let's Talk conversations at City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Anyone is welcome to join the conversation, however, the number of participants is limited to the first 15 individuals who RSVP. To RSVP, call 410-263-7961. The Mayor's Coffee dates are: May 12, May 19, May 26, and June 2.

E-mail List and Website are humming

From the City website (www.Annapolis.gov) click on:



to access the Let's Talk website and sign up for the Let's Talk email list. Also on the website find the up-to-date schedule of Let's Talk conversations, and materials to help get your own conversation started.